

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-9 **(canceled)**

10. **(New)** A welding arrangement comprising:
a powder having a constituent material;
a work piece having a constituent material the same as the constituent material of the powder;
a feeder for feeding the powder to the work piece; and
a welding torch having a plasma gas path for feeding plasma gas toward the work piece, an electrode for generating a plasma between the welding torch and the work piece, and powder nozzles for directing the powder fed by the feeder toward a focal point and transferring the powder to the work piece, said focal point being defined at an intersection of axes of the powder nozzles and an axis of the plasma gas path;
wherein a distance from the welding torch to said focal point is longer than a distance from the welding torch to the work piece, so that said focal point is located in an interior of the work piece.
11. **(New)** The welding arrangement according to claim 10, further comprising a power source for supplying electric power to the welding torch.
12. **(New)** The welding arrangement according to claim 10, wherein said welding torch comprises a torch body and a chip fixed to said torch body.
13. **(New)** The welding arrangement according to claim 12, wherein said plasma gas path, said electrode and said powder nozzles are each at least partly provided in said chip of said welding torch.

14. **(New)** A welding method comprising:
providing a powder having a constituent material;
providing a work piece having a constituent material the same as the constituent material of the powder;
feeding the powder to the work piece;
providing a welding torch having a plasma gas path, an electrode and powder nozzles, and situating said welding torch and said work piece relative to each other;
operating said welding torch by feeding plasma gas toward the work piece via said plasma gas path, generating a plasma between the welding torch and the work piece via said electrode, and directing the powder fed to the workpiece toward a focal point and transferring the powder to the work piece via said powder nozzles, said focal point being defined at an intersection of axes of the powder nozzles and an axis of the plasma gas path;
wherein, in situating said welding torch and said work piece relative to each other, a distance from the welding torch to said focal point is made longer than a distance from the welding torch to the work piece, so that said focal point is located in an interior of the work piece.

15. **(New)** The welding method according to claim 14, wherein
said providing of said welding torch comprises providing a torch body and providing a chip, and fixing said chip to said torch body.

16. **(New)** The welding method according to claim 15, wherein
said providing of said welding torch comprises providing each of said plasma gas path, said electrode and said powder nozzles at least partly in said chip of said welding torch.

17. **(New)** The welding method according to claim 15, wherein

said fixing of said chip to said torch body comprises screwing said chip to said torch body.